GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5193
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2008
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE FOR VEDANTA ALUMINUM PLANT
Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently granted forest and Environmental clearance to Vedanta for the expansion of its aluminium plant at Lanjigarh in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)&(b) The proposal for diversion of 660.749 ha. forest land for mining of Bauxite ore in Lanjigarh Bauxite Mines in favour of Orissa Mining Corporation in Kalahandi and Rayagada District in Orissa was recommended for approval by the Forest Advisory Committee in October, 2006. The recommendations could not be approved by the Competent Authority as the case is subjudice in Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The proposal of M/s Vedanta for the expansion of the Alumina Refinery (from 1.0 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) to 6.0 MTPA) at P.O. Lanjigarh, District Kalahandi, Orissa has been received in the Ministry and as per the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, Terms of Reference (TOR) have been awarded in March, 2008 for preparation of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment(EIA)/Environment Management Plan(EMP) for submission to Orissa State Pollution Control Board for conducting public hearing/consultations. Further, the Project proponents have been requested to incorporate all the issues raised during public hearing/ consultation in final EIA/EMP and submit to the Ministry for taking decision on environmental clearance.